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Pat Nolan takes a break after 49 years

lacey reynolds
staff writer

She has touched the lives of hundreds of high school and college students as well as dozens of faculty members. She has dedicated nearly five decades to encouraging students to open themselves up through writing and literature. She has gained friends, learned life lessons, connected with her students, and achieved many goals. She is pleased with all that she has accomplished and is now ready to focus on the things in life that she has been neglecting for too long.

After 49 years of teaching both high school and college, Clarke English professor, Pat Nolan, BVM, believes it is time to retire.

"Forty-nine years is a long time," she said. "It is the end of my 49th year and I would like to celebrate my 50th year by commemorating the people in my life and the teaching and experiences I've had. It's just time."

Nolan does indeed deserve a year of celebration for everything she has accomplished.

The journey has been a rewarding and enlightening one for her.

Believe it or not, Nolan had no intentions to teach college classes 28 years ago. Her love was once for teaching high school students.

In fact, she taught high school for 21 years before unexpectedly arriving at Clarke.

She had decided to take a sabbatical and needed a replacement to teach her freshman writing course. She asked Nolan to do the job, convinc-

So Nolan agreed to teach the writing course. The class was offered in the evening so she took on the course in addition to her normal high school load. "I told Barbara, 'If I hate teaching this course, I will know for sure that I never want to teach college classes,'" Nolan said. "Well, of course, I absolutely loved it."

At the end of that semester, Nolan was offered a full-time position at Clarke. She had a difficult decision to make, but she decided she was ready for a change and accepted the position.

Teaching college courses was a difficult transition for her. "It was new in many ways," she said. "I had to come up with more difficult and challenging material. I realized how much writing enables students to learn so I assigned writing assignments in every class. But when you do that, you have to read them all," she added with a smile. Nolan also spent years squeezing committees and departmental chair stints into her work schedule.

Continued on page 7



Clarke President Joanne Burrows (right) presents Pat Nolan, BVM, who is retiring after 49 years of teaching, with a professor emeriti award at Clarke's Faculty/Staff Recognition Celebration last week.

"I loved teaching English to 15-year-olds," said Nolan. But her longtime friend and fellow BVM Barbara Kutchera, who was teaching English at Clarke, encouraged her to try something new. Kutch-

ing her that she would do a fine job and maybe even enjoy herself. Nolan was doubtful. "I had no desire to teach college," she said. "But Barbara was a close friend. How could I say no?"

Taking Ed students into different worlds

brenden west
staff writer

The students of Clarke's Table Mound Professional Development School Class, taught by professors Paula Schmidt and Michele Vosberg, had the opportunity to gain new perspectives when they traveled to Milwaukee to visit Engleburg Elementary School and the University School of Milwaukee on March 31.

The two schools offer two completely different takes on education. Engleburg, on the north side of town, is a highly diverse and low-income school. It's an "inner-city" school where teachers are accustomed to students showing up late or being pulled from class by their parents. There are many good instructional programs at this school, but distractions make it difficult at times for teachers to teach well.

Continued on page 4

Nursing students head to Ecuador

heather haas
staff writer

This May Lois Pancratz, assistant professor of nursing at Clarke, and eight students will travel to Quito, Ecuador. Clarke Spanish professor Sheila O'Brien, BVM, will lead the group in Quito as well as interpret for them. The group will be based at the Working Boys' Center and will promote the idea of healthy living in their work 2,000 children, teenagers and their parents.

Last summer, Clarke education students led by Michele Vosberg, Joyce Meier, and Larry Bice of the education faculty went to Quito and introduced innovative teaching methods to the 40 grade school teachers. The students created lesson plans, donated creative classroom materials and taught the children.

The Quito center offers health care to all its members, and this year the nursing department, under the direction of primary physician Dr. Giuliana Hidalgo, plans to assist doctors and nurses at the center. The Working Boys Center serves 2,000 people, offering them three meals a day, six days a week. The center offers day care,

grade school, and technical school, giving young children a chance to learn and grow and to be successful after they have earned a degree. The idea is to give students a practical education including such matters as budgeting and saving money and incorporating spirituality into their lives so they can be on their own after they have earned a degree. The center also attempts to teach students about health care.

Junior kinesiology and elementary education major Amanda Fleege went with the education department to Quito last summer.

"The culture down in South America is significantly different than what you see in America," Amanda said. "We take our education for granted; the people of Ecuador crave an education so that they can support their families and take care of themselves. I saw things from a whole different perspective. It was a very valuable experience that has so many memories to go with it."



campus life



May Daze shenanigans

arts etc.



Clarke senior artists display their work

opinion



See Christian Bale's new movie. Or else.

weather



High 69
Low 48

am history



CAA basketball

Campus-wide March Madness bracket. Wilson basketball and the right to say we. Most people didn't see the UNC/McGill game coming. When Louisville and Pitt were in the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight, the participants in the bracket contest also lost. They won the final game 72-89. UNC has three national title games they have been in 2005, and 2009. With this fifth title, Indiana for third overall championship.

me time I did. They were energetic, dramatic. They were a treasure trove of experience and fortunately became her. As truly enjoyed her time at Clarke and the advantage of all Clarke has to offer her. She has many plans for her future and started on completing her new goals. Clarke has been a long and fantastic journey. "Thank you to the students and faculty for a rewarding experience."

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It's not too late

Stress-free tips for raising that final grade

justin curry
arts/entertainment editor

It is a general rule of thumb among college educators that as students we should study two hours for every hour we are in class. As overly ambitious as that sounds, at this time of the school year we all wish we would have listened to that advice. If you haven't started studying for finals yet, you should probably finish reading the Courier and then hit the books.

Lorie Murphy-Freebolin, the director of Clarke's Counseling Center, has many articles in her office about the dangers of procrastination and how the stress can cause us to fall off the edge. For students who have procrastinated all semester but still want to do well Murphy-Freebolin offers this advice: "Prayer could help here; you could consider getting a better start next semester."



Are you a procrastinator?
If you ever questioned if you are a procrastinator or not, here is some things that procrastinators tell themselves: I work better under stress, I have more important things to do right now, or I have more than enough time. Procrastination can create unnecessary stress. Often if you do finish your project or paper at the last minute, it is not up to par with your previous work. Also, you will be so tired the next day you will be essentially worthless. Julee Albers, Clarke learning specialist, offers some insight on one

way that you can stop procrastinating and make sure you are submitting your best work.

"Make yourself accountable," she said. "Set a deadline for yourself by using small steps in achieving your study goals, but be realistic."

Becoming a procrastinator is a process and, similarly, it is a process for a person to stop procrastinating. Scientists have not developed a miracle drug to stop procrastination overnight...yet.

Stress Relief

Studying for five or more finals at a time can be overwhelming.

When dead hours are not being enforced on campus, most commonly you will be bombarded with the blasting of reaggaeton music in the halls. Once in a while you come across the random dorm room where all you hear is pounding on the walls and screaming. Either the

and test grades." Albers says.

Beating Test Anxiety

Murphy-Freebolin has seen students who have such bad test anxiety that they start to cry or even hyperventilate. "Most students do much better after learning good study skills and test-taking strategies," she said.

There are a lot of little tricks people can do to calm themselves before a test. The most simple to practice are going into the test with a positive attitude, studying for the exam where it will be taking place, and most important of

in student preparation is higher," said Tim Boffeli, psychology department chair. "Comprehension is better because the student can put the information in their own words."

Nothing beats a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast before a test. Matt Clousing, sophomore business and pre-med major, is a cerebral stud. Last semester he earned straight A's and has been on the dean's list since he has been at Clarke. "My secret is to eat a big breakfast. I eat two eggs over easy, sausage, hash browns, and wheat toast," he said.

Getting Motivated

The biggest problem with studying for finals is finding the motivation. Most of the finals at Clarke are worth 20 percent of your grade or more. If you can afford not to study for that, hats off to you.

"Remind yourself why you are pursuing a college education in the first place," said Murphy-Freebolin. "Remember that this is an investment in you."

Boffeli said, "I am quite confident that the 'Nazi Zombies' in 'Call of Duty World at War' will be there on Thursday night May 7. Students who want to stay focused should decrease their typical socialization routines and online gaming dates."

all, being prepared.

Most of our test anxiety doesn't kick in until we get to the essay questions. One of the biggest tips to handling essay questions is to make a quick outline of your answer before putting your thoughts down on the paper.

"You cannot completely get 'rid' of anxiety but you can learn to manage it," said Albers.

How do you know you are prepared and your hours of studying have paid off? It's not if you can recite everything you just learned.

"If a student can engage in a conversation about the topic and answer questions, then my confidence

To tweet or not to tweet? That is the real question

tina fry
extras editor

With a wealth of information at our fingertips whenever we need it, do we know when to say enough? That is the question that CNN recently posed about Twitter and Facebook. According to CNN, "New findings show that the streams of information provided by social networking sites are too fast for the brain's 'moral compass' to process and could harm young people's emotional development."

This is a result of the constant status updates and breaking news that bombards people while on these websites. CNN says "Brain scans showed humans can process and respond very quickly to signs of physical pain in others, but took longer to show admiration of compassion."

When asked about this study, Andrea Bixler, associate professor of biology at Clarke, had some insight of her own. "The study suggests

that fast-moving information feeds like typical news broadcasts move so quickly that people can barely respond," Bixler said.

"This is less of a problem for stories about suffering because our brains process those quickly, and more of a problem for stories that might evoke positive emotions like admiration, which take longer for our brains."

Thoughts of admiration naturally take longer; it is not just a side effect of social networking sites or fast moving media.

"This makes sense from an evolutionary perspective—our brains evolved just like the rest of us," Bixler said. "A quick response to someone who is hurt (either running away to avoid being hurt, too, or helping the injured person, especially if he or she was related) would improve our odds of surviving and passing on our genes, so it would have been selected for

"Admiring someone else wouldn't have been so critical to our survival!" Bixler added.

Admiration is not a completely necessary trait for survival, but how we react to pain has been honed over thousands of years. It is much more crucial to the human race than admiration.

"Interestingly for me as a teacher, this might also have implications for how I talk about things that I want my students to be positively impressed about," Bixler said.

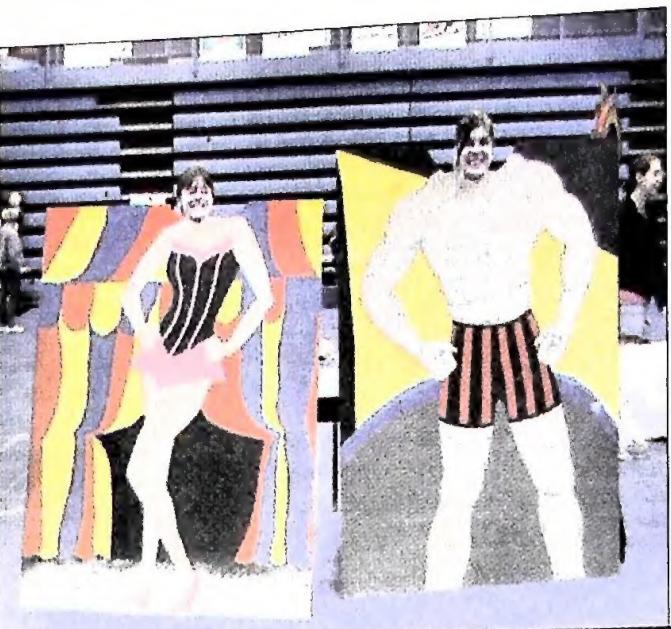
When all is said and done, will these findings really affect usage of Twitter and Facebook? Laura Blocklinger, a freshman elementary education major, said she isn't impressed by the study. "I don't really care about the findings. I use Facebook and Twitter to stay connected with my friends and family," added Laura.



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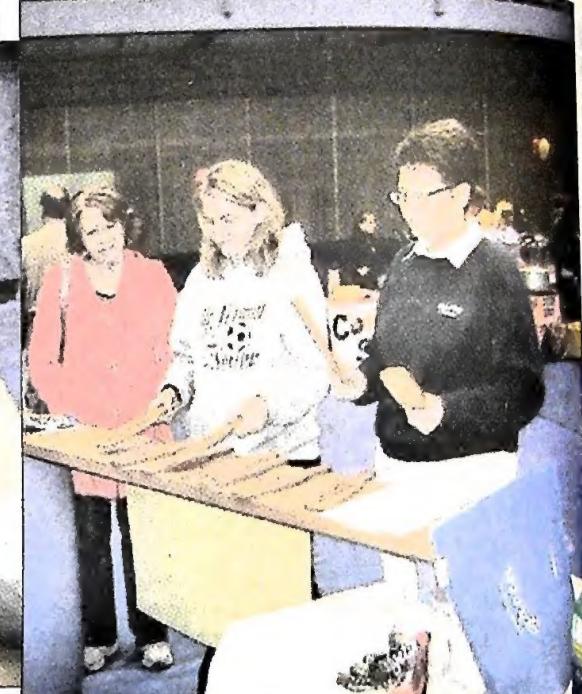
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MAY



DAZE

Photos by: Kylee Miller



Clockwise from top: Megan Clayton and Kylee Miller strike a pose behind carnival-themed props. Right: Clarke President Joanne Burrows and Angie Miceli play the pinwheel game sponsored by the

senior class. Above: Justine Elhers and Callie Cram show off their messy faces after the pie eating contest. Left: Jerry Bishop and Tina Fry play roulette at Casino Night.

**Students fill hot air balloons, wield knives:
It's summer job time**

sara prier
staff writer

The end of the school year is fast approaching, along with many summer jobs. Clarke students have a range of ways of making money in the summer.

Taking to the Air

Lisa Foley, Clarke freshman elementary and special education major, uses her summer job to get a good view. She also helps blow up balloons, load trailers, and sign people in. Lisa, who works at Galena on the Fly-- a hot air balloon business in Galena, spends her days blowing up the massive balloons. This is done by laying the balloon on the ground and using three fans to blow it up. Then, when it is almost all inflated, the burners are lit and the balloon raises the basket that is on the side. People are loaded into the basket and they lift off. Lisa also loads the trailer with the cart, balloon, and the fan and helps fill the propane tanks for the next flight. Lisa says her eccentric job is great.

Facing Danger as a Sandwich Artist

Another Clarke student, Courtney Chapman, freshman elementary education major, spends her summer days with potatoes, waffle fries, Phillie steaks, and subs at the Hungry Hobo in the Quad Cities. Courtney makes subs and serves up some odd side orders to go with them. She says she works as a glorified sandwich artist in the dangerous world of knives and burns.

"You really need to be careful with the slicer," said Chapman. "It leaves some pretty nasty scars that prove you've worked at the Hungry Hobo. Anyone thinking of working at the Hungry Hobo may want to decide if they can deal with scars first."

Clarke Education Students, Cont. from page 1

Conversely, the University School of Milwaukee is a private school that's gated, has its own ice arena, and requires students to wear uniforms. It's the school where players on the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks send their children. It costs more to send a child to this school than it does to attend Clarke. As a result parents can be very demanding of teachers; teachers are on call to the parents 24/7.

The Clarke students divided into two groups and spent half of the day in each of the schools. They were able to work with the students, tour the schools and meet with administrators.

"We wanted students to see different perspectives at schools which include rural, inner-city, and exclusive private schools," said Paula Schmidt. "They saw educational settings they've never seen before and may never see again."

After the students were done touring the schools, they were able to sit down with teachers from each of the schools and ask questions. Environment, curriculum, teaching styles, and location were all topics of discussion. The Clarke faculty said the visits served as a very useful learning experience.

"It was not about which school was best or worst but what's different," said Vosberg. "We wanted students to think about issues that they might not have thought about."

Junior education major Kayla Demmer said of the trip, "As a class we were able to experience two different worlds that were only minutes apart: A school where there was no color on the front lawn to a school whose lawn was green and landscaped. Overall the trip was very eye opening and I am glad that I was able to have this wonderful experience."

The trip to Milwaukee completed a class marathon in which the students visited three schools in five days. Earlier in the week they visited Cardinal Elementary School where they experienced the rural aspects of education. These Clarke education students also experienced Dubuque Community school regularly as they worked three days a week at Table Mountain Elementary School.

"Experiencing four kinds of school environments allows students to understand a wide variety of different school situations," said Vosberg. "They will be prepared for various jobs. Overall it was a rewarding experience."

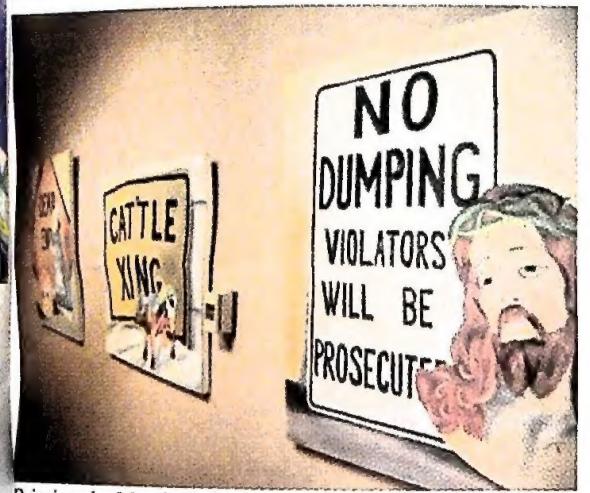
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Clarke Seniors Display Their Best

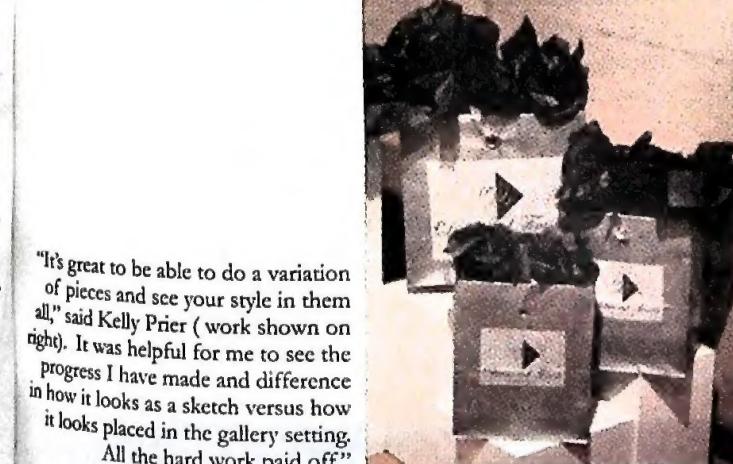
After a full year, the hard work has finally paid off for 2009 art graduates. The art students have a preliminary meeting to discuss their senior show in April of their junior year. The Quigley Gallery is now showing an accumulation of art produced by the eight talented seniors. This exhibit covers graphic design, illustration, painting, sculpture, photography, web design, and product packaging.



Notecards by Erin Clark



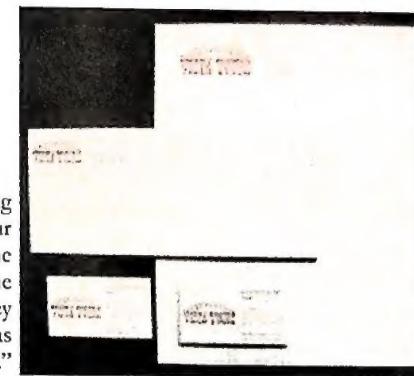
Paintings by Mandy Eglseder



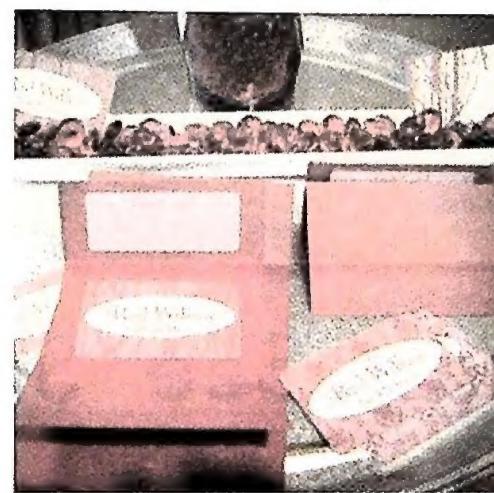
"It's great to be able to do a variation of pieces and see your style in them all," said Kelly Prier (work shown on right). "It was helpful for me to see the progress I have made and difference in how it looks as a sketch versus how it looks placed in the gallery setting. All the hard work paid off."



"I am a problem-solver," said Beth Stuerman (work shown on left). "I enjoyed trying to come up with a successful logo and all of the choices that went into putting my show up, even if it was stressful at times. There is something amazing about seeing the finished product come together."



"I like architectural photography, and after talking with my professor I came up with the idea of a tour company," said Jenn Meyer (work pictured on right). "To see and hear people's reaction to the show was the best part. It was nice to see that they enjoyed our work. I was proud once everything was up and finished."



"Creating Red Willow Gifts and the products it would sell allowed me to show my versatility while still maintaining some unity," said Kerrie Robinson (work featured on left). "My goal was to show my ability to adapt and my knowledge of a variety of techniques and media. I'm happy with the results."



Sculpture by Annie Bennett



"I wanted to say something real," said Bjorn Bjornstad (work on shown on right). "So much of being an artist is learning how to justify. My show was about honesty, honesty over the convictions I've lived for, honesty over the fact that the art community is an extremely categorized institution, and to show the audience that art serves a purpose."

'Fast & Furious:' Running on fumes

arron rhomberg
staff writer

A sequel to the 2001 hit "Fast and Furious," this pointless film reunites the main characters from the first installment complete with a thin plot and terrible dialogue that makes it quickly run out of gas. While fans of the original will be excited to see Vin Diesel return, it's obvious he was in desperate need for a hit while Paul Walker is in need for a pay day. This time around Dominic Toretto (Diesel) returns to Los Angeles when his girlfriend is murdered by a drug kingpin (played by John Ortiz who played the exact same role in 2006's "Miami Vice"). To get his revenge he infiltrates the kingpin's organization by joining his illegal street-racing team. As fate would have it, FBI agent Brian O'Conner (Walker) is also trying

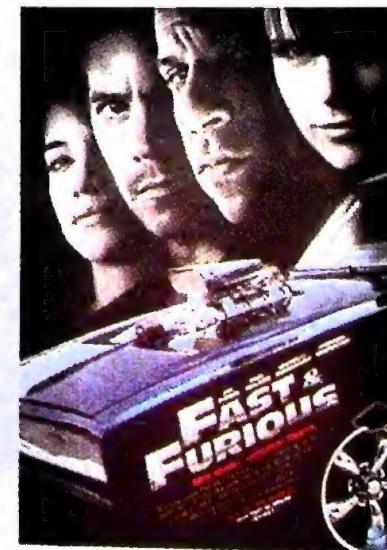
to gain access to the same gang. What happens next is the same plot we've seen before in so many awful action movies.

The Good: It was great to see the original cast back; after two tacky sequels you might have figured the producers would run out of ideas. They made a good decision to try and bring the franchise back by reuniting the two main characters. The chemistry between Diesel and Walker is great, and it would be hard to see these movies continue with anyone else.

The Bad: First, the plot is so ridiculous that it can't be called a plot. It starts out well but once you get into the story you realize how campy it becomes. The characters appear to use clichés from other action movies and seem not to have any emotions, and when they do it seems they

are forcing them upon the audience. The special effects are another reason that the sequel can't live up to the original. The first film had a few effects that made the story work; in special effects one they are overused and look cheap. It seems that the producers didn't have enough left after paying the actors' salaries and had to scrap the bottom of the effects barrel.

Final Thought: If you are a fan of pointless action movies with a lot of destruction and hot cars, then this one is for you. For others who want a film that is intelligent with good action I recommend either "Ronin" or "The French Connection." But then, you get what you pay for; it's called "Fast & Furious," not intelligent and interesting. However, on the bright side there's a GPS.



clarke courier

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The Courier picks summer flicks

aaron rhomberg
staff writer

Staff Writer

With the school year coming to a close it means that studios will begin to produce the blockbuster films that make the summer enjoyable. While there will be many films released, here are seven that will make the most impact.

"X-men origins: Wolverine"-This film is a prequel to the X-men trilogy that focuses on the origin of Wolverine. The audience will witness his introduction to the Weapon X program and his relationship with Sabertooth. One reason that this will be an enjoyable experience is that it will feature mutants that have yet to be seen in the past films. These include Gambit, Deadpool, and the Blob.

"Terminator Salvation"- This film is the first part of a new trilogy that shows us what happens when judgment day occurs. This time around Christian Bale will assume the role of John Connor as he and the remaining humans attempt to destroy the computer known as Skynet. This will be a great continuation of the franchise started by James Cameron. The director and producers are adding a new spin on the series by going into the future and showing us what has only been seen briefly in the previous installments.

"Transformers Revenge of the Fallen"- This sequel to the 2007 hit staring Shia LaBeouf will feature more action and robots than in the first picture. This time the

utobots must save their human friend Sam LaBeouf) after he is kidnapped by the evil Decepticons when he learns about their origin. This is one to look forward to because director Michael Bay has promised fans more action and because of the introduction of the Decepticon minions Soundwave and the Constructicons (seven robots who

"Public Enemies"- Director Michael Mann returns to his crime roots. Mann has assembled a cast that features Johnny Depp and Christian Bale. This time around Mann focuses on the infamous bank robber John Dillinger (Depp) who is being pursued by FBI agent Melvin Purvis (Bale). From the trailer it looks to create a balance of great acting and intense battles. Look for Public Enemies to be this year's "American Gangster."

Gangster:
“Funny People”- Judd Apatow’s third directorial feature finds Adam Sandler playing a stand-up comic who finds out he has a blood disorder and only has a year to live. He then goes about trying to find out what the meaning of life is. Apatow regulars Seth Rogan, Leslie Mann, and Jonah Hill are joined by Jason Schwartzman and Eric Bana. It is being described as a comedy drama with more of the latter. This could be the best film Apatow has released because of the way he is able to cover a subject matter that the audience can relate to.
“G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra”- Yet another

adaptation of a Hasbro toy line. This one is being directed by Stephen Sommers, and tells the story of a group of elite American soldiers who combat the evil terrorist organization known as Cobra. The movie will be an origin story so those who are not familiar with the toy line will understand what is happening.

"Inglourious Basterds"- Quentin Tarantino's WWII drama about a group of Jewish-American soldiers who enter German-occupied France to hunt and kill Nazi Soldiers. Look for the usual Tarantino dialogue and violence as he pays homage to previous WWII movies. This will be a new look at war movies, and could possibly be the best one in the last five years. Most of the war films have been more focused on actual events and Tarantino's vision will be a fictitious story that has not been seen.



Space out after finals: See 'Star Trek'

kylee miller
sports editor

"This is not your father's Star Trek," the TV commercials promise; and they are right. "Star Trek" will be the eleventh series-based movie to be released in a 25-year period, and on May 8, you can join in on this outer space adventure.

This movie is based on the original Star Trek series released in the 1960s. But this is not some ancient piece of cinematography. Creator Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future will finally meet today's current special effects and actors.

No longer will Captain James T. Kirk pause

or long periods in between each word. Instead Chris Pine depicts this heroic icon as a troubled young man who struggles to define himself while helping to save the universe as we know it.

This movie has a familiar all-star cast. Anton Yelchin, who played Zack in "Alpha Dog," Chris Pine, one of the crazy brothers in "Smokin Aces." Simon Pegg, Karl Urban, John Cho is the infamous Harold Lee in the Harold and Kumar series. Zoë Saldaña has been in "Hancock" and "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra."

en in Hollywood hits like Guess Who and

classic stories established in the original movies and series. It starts as a prequel to the TV series with Kirk joining Star Fleet and meeting up with his future first officer, Spock. "Star Trek" ties together the stories began in the second movie "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Kahn" and many of the original series episodes.

Director J.J. Adams, the driving force behind "Lost," is taking on a huge challenge in attempting to please millions of fans. The "Star Trek" universe is made up of five different series and eleven motion pictures with

The fan base that rivals that of "Star Wars." The hard-core Trekkies will more than likely attend the midnight premier of the movie in an array of costumes. This could include anything basic from a Star Fleet uniform to those dedicated individuals who will dress up as Klingons and who actually know the language.

Movie theaters haven't seen anything like this since the last "Star Trek" movie premiered in 2002. J.J. Adams is already committed to directing the sequel, which is expected to be released in 2011.



—SPORTS—

April 30, 2009

Beloved volleyball coach retires

brenden west
staff writer

How do you qualify as a Clarke legend? Some are BVMs, others have a well-defined body of work, others still, perhaps, are faces that everybody knows. The man I'm going to toss in the ring isn't a sister or a name those outside the sport of volleyball may recognize. But he is definitely a familiar campus face, and a treat for everyone here at Clarke.

For seven years he has quietly gone about his days here in Dubuque. But his impact on the people he interacts with is nothing short of moving, and those of us he has touched will sorely miss him.

His name is Joe Collier, a 2006 graduate and assistant coach for the men's and women's volleyball teams here at Clarke. Along with being a great guy, Coach Joe has had an impact on everyone I've had the chance to meet in the volleyball program and warrants recognition. Among his numerous recognitions are selections to the '04-'05 and '05-'06 "ESPN The Magazine" Second-team Academic All-District VII Award, '05-'06 pre-season All-American, '05-'06 MIVA All-Academic team, and an '05-'06 "ESPN The Magazine" Academic All-District First-Team selection.

One of the things that excited me most, when I was 18 years old and had first signed with Clarke to play volleyball was the fact that I would get to play for Coach Joe. We come from the same area, the south suburbs of Chicago, we played for high schools that are constantly doing battle, and we were both successful in the State finals (Collier placed first his senior year at Marist, and my team placed fourth in state five years later).

After two years of playing for Coach Joe, it's bittersweet for me to report that he will be moving on to a part of life that many of us look forward to. Sweet in the sense that I'm happy to see my coach is moving on with his life and marrying the woman he loves, 2008 graduate Melissa Shanks and moving to Madison, Wis. Bitter in the sense that it saddens me that I will no longer get to work with a man whom I consider a coach, a mentor, and even a friend.

As a coach, Joe Collier held us accountable and also respected each of us and our individuality. I saw a man who loves

the game and his players and I am one of the many who can testify to the impact that he has had on us in our various processes of growing, learning and maturing as athletes. I played for a man who believed in us when others did not. And I played for a man who balanced a job at The Shoe Shack with coaching, just so he could pay the rent and be there for us.

As a mentor, Joe Collier always took time to make sure that his teams aspired to achieve as much in the classroom as on the court. A seven-year member of the program, Collier was an academic all conference player during his playing days, and set an example for his teammates on and off the court.

And when it comes to being a friend, Coach Joe has always been there to support the members of the program as well as this institution. He's one of those coaches that always knows how to put a smile on your face and lighten the mood when times seem tough.

Those of us who know Collier on this level, recognize him as one of "the classy guys" and as one of the most dedicated members of the volleyball program. Those of us who know Coach Joe on this level appreciate his tutelage, his love for the game, and the bar he has set for all of us.

And those of us who know Coach Joe on this level are grateful that we got to play for a true Clarke legend.



Photo by Josh Lister

Clarke Men's Volleyball poses for a photo after their ritual kickball game on Tuesday April 28. Left to Right: Brenden West, Travis Wills, Alex Kelsheimer, Bryndon Paulsen, Casey Sawyer, Assistant Coach Joe Collier, Dan Tringale, Ethan Holly, Alex Wilharm, Head Coach Chris Miron, Matt Redman, Andy Bishop, Matt Roth, David Eck, and Bobby Springer.

Pat Nolan Cont. pg 1

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Movie theaters haven't seen anything like this since the last "Star Trek" movie premiered in 2002. J.J. Abrams is already committed to directing the sequel, which is expected to be released in 2011.

While it seemed overwhelming at first, Nolan always felt the support of her department faculty. "They were always the greatest, and I realized they were working far harder than I!" she said. She appreciated the variety of the courses she taught as well as the diversity among the students.

"I had never taught adult students before," Nolan said. "Being in on the early years of the TimeSaver program was new and different. These students seemed more eager to learn and they worked harder. I learned more about teaching in the transition. It was harder, but I loved the challenge."

Nolan has taught a variety of English courses at Clarke, including literature, writing, and Cornerstone classes. "My favorite classes to teach are fiction and poetry, particularly literary criticism," she said. "It's such a rewarding experience to see a student spend a significant amount of time on one passage, poem or even just one verse of a poem and then be surprised and satisfied with some real meaning. It is gratifying to witness the results of the process of analysis."

Nolan feels the students are the most important part of Clarke. "We attract a special kind of student here," she said. "Every one of my students is significant to me. I have learned an enormous amount from them all. If I were to give my students advice for the future I would tell them that while it may help to be smart, it's not necessary to be brilliant. I would encourage them to be open, to be willing to learn. You can train yourself to be excited about learning."

Her colleagues are another aspect of Clarke that Nolan enjoys every day. "When you work with the same group of people for so long, they have a permanent place in your heart," she said. "Sara McAlpin and Barbara Kutchera helped me the most when I first came to Clarke. We were the only three people in the English

department so we became quite close."

Over the years so many members of the Clarke community have been a part of Nolan's life. "Currently, the Language and Literature department members, humanities division faculty, and the Cornerstone faculty are all part of my 'memory bank,'" she said. "I will never forget them."

Nolan's colleagues and friends could not agree more. "I admire Pat's passion and interest in students and in education," said Clarke English professor Ann Pelelo. "I admire her creative approaches to education, literature and writing. I admire her generosity of time, energy and spirit which she shares with all."

Gary Arms, Clarke English professor admires Nolan's generosity as well, but said if he were to describe her in one word, that word would be love. "I once read Pat's teaching philosophy," he said. "That was the word: Love. She believes she should try to love all her students. I have never forgotten that."

Nolan plans on staying involved in some way with life at Clarke, but she is looking forward to spending most of her time enjoying the world around her.

"I want to pay more attention, to 'feed my soul.' We never take the time to look out the window and notice the spring trees moving from bud to blossom. I want to do that now. I want to sit, think, pray. I want to pay more attention to my friendships. For at least a little while, I am ready to 'be' instead of 'do.'"

Nolan's friends would prescribe nothing less relaxing for her to do with her new free time. In fact, Arms suggests that she relax for an entire six months before doing anything too ambitious. "I suggest that Pat take a trip, hang out with pals, and then find something challenging and worthwhile to do," he said.

Clarke English professor Katie Fischer also hopes Nolan will enjoy the peace and quiet of retirement. "I

would advise Pat to chill, read books for pleasure, 'waste' time, go for coffee with friends, and don't schedule a darn thing," she said. "I hope Pat can take long walks, stare out at the Mississippi, and simply enjoy life."

It is clear that Nolan has left a lasting impression on all those who have had the opportunity to get to know her. "Pat is an amazingly creative thinker and problem-solver," Fischer said. "She has a remarkable memory, but more than anything, she is a generous-hearted person who loves students. Pat breathes life into all her relationships—those with friends, colleagues and students. She embodies 'spiritus,' the Latin word for the breath of life and part of the Clarke core values."

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EXTRAS

April 30, 2009

A hillbilly's guide to dating

justin haas
staff writer

The temperature is rising, birds are chirping and love is in the air! Guys, grab a pen and paper and prepare to take notes. You're about to get dating advice from a hillbilly! The reason I say "hillbilly" is because I am from Arkansas and many people believe that's all there is there.

First things first; I am no expert. I have made poor decisions in my love life before just as everyone else has, but it is those bad decisions that we can learn the most from. That said, I will provide you with some simple steps to making your dating life a breeze. And here we go...

Step 1: Identifying a girl. Unless you plan on dating yourself, which would be awkward (and impossible), than there has to be a target. Whether it is the brunette girl in philosophy class or the bartender from a pub, there has to be somebody.

Step 2: Keep it simple. I can't tell you how many times I've heard my friends and peers complicate things. For example, "Hi, how are

you?" or "Hi, my name is (fill in the blank). What's your name?" are simple questions to ask when trying to get to know someone. Whatever you do, DO NOT use a pick up line! Trust me, it may be funny and it may be clever, but girls do not like them. DO NOT DO THIS:

Guy: "Excuse me, do you know how much a polar bear weighs?"

Girl: "Um... No"

Guy: "Well it weighs just enough to break the ice. Hi, my name is (fill in the blank.)"

Step 3: Be honest. I know this is a cliché but it is the truth. Girls have a special power that enables them to tell when a guy is lying somehow, so don't try, especially on a date. Remember, if

you lie on day one then you have to remember that lie on day 27. For example, you tell a girl that you are interested in a certain style of music and you saw a band in concert a few years ago. Obviously the only reason

you are telling her this is to a: Try to impress her or b: Have something in common with her because you have nothing else. A lie leads to another lie so don't do it!

Here is how this could happen:

Guy

tells his date that he doesn't listen to country music because she had mentioned she didn't listen to country music. That date goes well



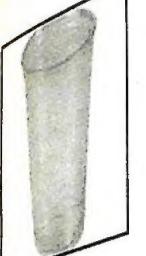
and leads to another date a few days later. While riding in your car she turns on the radio and notices that all of the radio stations are set on country stations. You'll probably have some explaining to do...take my word for it.

Step 4: Five things you shouldn't talk about on a first date: religion, politics, personal relationships, financial situation and personal problems. Absolutely nothing positive can come from discussing these issues on a first date. However, wait a few dates down the road and they are fair game.

Lets' recap what we learned today: identify the girl, keep it simple, be honest, and don't talk about any negative topics on a date. There it is, guys. Key information you need to know to have a successful date. Now, go out, put these tips to good use and you'll see how things work out in the end..

September 25, 2009

campus life



Are plastic cups an endangered species in the SAC?

arts etc.



A Stephen King book for would-be writers

sports



Cheerleading returns to Clarke

weather



How to stay awake in class

elaine miller
staff writer

BEEP BEEP BEEP! I'm sure we've all been there: it's early in the morning and the sun hasn't even come up yet and that alarm clock next to your head is yelling at you to wake up. We press the snooze button about three more times before actually waking up and probably saying something not pleasant as we peel our bodies from our mattresses.

You contemplate skipping your morning classes because there is no way you'll be able to stay awake and survive class. Well, here are some tips to stay awake and not

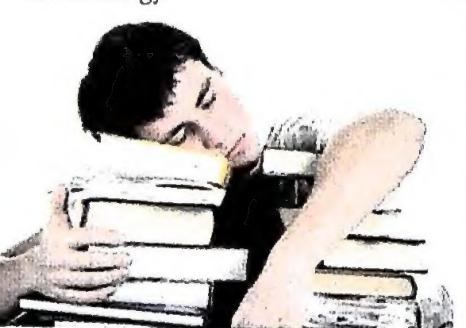
have to skip that important class.

- A good night's sleep is needed every night. Try for seven to eight hours of sleep or as many hours as you can if you can't get that many.

- Wake up a little bit earlier than planned. Seems a little crazy, but this can help you prepare for a busy day and get energized.

- Eat breakfast. Breakfast makes people more alert and gives them needed energy in the morning. Eat something healthy, not left over pizza or McDonald's from the night before. You could also drink something caffeinated like

coffee, pop, or an energy drink for added energy.



Don't let this happen to you!

- Take vitamins. Vitamin B is the best to take in the morning since it

increases your energy level.

- Think of something exciting to stimulate your brain. Think of an exciting moment, what you're going to do after class, what's for lunch, what exciting thing is going to happen this weekend, etc. BUT, don't let your mind wander too long, just think of something long enough to get rid of your sleepy feeling.

- Listen and participate in class. Whenever you feel a need to doze off, raise your hand and participate, it'll keep you mentally responsive to what's going on

in the classroom.

- Switch seats. Move from the back or middle of the classroom to the front. It'll prevent you from trying to doze off since your teacher will probably be looking right at you.

- Avoid naps. The more naps you take, the less tired you will be at night and you will end up losing sleep.

-Based on information from www.howto.com & www.howtодothings.com

An Incoherent Mess

dave tucker
editor

